



NEWS RELEASE

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Southeast Region

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CONTACT: Will Wawrzyn, Wisconsin DNR, 414-263-8699
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SUBJECT: Public Input Sought on Draft Environmental Assessment for
Schweitzer Dam Removal Project

Milwaukee, Wis. — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), in cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), invites the public to review and comment on a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Schweitzer Dam removal and restoration project, on Cedar Creek in Washington County. The draft EA evaluates several alternatives, including the proposed alternative, which is to remove the dam structure and restore the stream and its natural floodplain corridor. Each agency will make independent decisions on the EA in accordance with their respective environmental regulations.

The project is expected to cost about \$90,000 and would be paid in part with federal Sport Fish Restoration funds. The dam, located on Lily Road one mile west of Jackson and just north of Highway 60, was built in 1946. Removing the dam and restoring the stream would improve the quality of water and habitat for fish and wildlife species and will complement on-going resource conservation efforts in the Cedar Creek watershed.

The proposed alternative that would address this need involves; 1) removing the Schweitzer dam; 2) restoring and enhancing habitat in the newly formed river channel and exposed sediment; and 3) creating a small replacement pond of less than 0.25 acre for use by the riparian landowners for home cooling purposes, yet removed from Cedar Creek. The two other alternatives considered are the "No Action" alternative, which would require repairing the dam, and repairing the dam and enhancing the pond through dredging.

The draft EA was prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) which applies to the actions of all federal agencies. The proposed project is also being reviewed under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The area of potential effect for this undertaking is the Schweitzer dam, the pond formed by the dam and underlying streambed. The public is requested to inform the Service about archeological sites, buildings and structures, historic places, cemeteries, and traditional uses of the area that could influence decisions about the project.

Copies of the draft EA are available at the DNR Southeast Region Headquarters, 2300 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. in Milwaukee (414-263-8699) and at the City of West Bend Public Library at 230 S. 6th Street, West Bend and the Town of Polk town hall at 3680 State Highway 60. Town hall office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 12 noon, Monday through Thursdays. The draft EA is also available on the Service's Regional Internet site at: <http://midwest.fws.gov/nepa> Written comments should be sent to Mr. Will Wawrzyn at PO Box 12436, Milwaukee WI 53212; via email to wawrzw@dnr.state.wi.us; or via fax to 414-263-8716. Comments on the draft EA are welcome and should be submitted in writing. Comments should be received by Mr. Wawrzyn not later than August 6, 2002.

(MORE)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 94-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System that encompasses more than 535 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 70 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

For further information about programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Great Lakes-Big Rivers Region, please visit our website at <http://midwest.fws.gov>

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The following counties are in the Southeast Region: Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha.

The Public Affairs Manager for DNR Southeast Region is Kathleen Wolski, (414) 263-8516.